

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 2 paragraph [0014], as follows:

Aspects of the present invention provide a method for rapidly producing a ceramic object having different material properties at selectable locations within the object. Laser energy may be used to sinter a ceramic powder. ~~By~~By way of example, powder particle size, powder particle composition, and laser energy parameters may be selectively varied across regions of the object. This may be useful for producing ceramic mold shells having a core portion and an envelope portion, wherein the desired properties of the core and envelope are different.